

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 2773 - HB 3237

March 1, 2010

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires a runoff election if no candidate for Congress receives a majority of all the votes cast. The two candidates with the highest number of votes would be placed on the runoff ballot and the runoff election would be held four weeks from the date of the original election.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$450,000/Every Two Years*

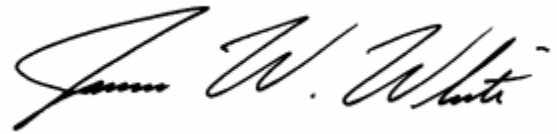
Assumptions:

- The number of times a runoff election would be required to be held is unknown.
- The cost of such a runoff election would depend on whether the election is for a U.S. Senate seat or U.S. House seat. An election for a Senate seat would be held statewide; an election for a House seat would be held in a particular district.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, the cost of an election for a U.S. Senate seat could be \$4,491,895 statewide, with each county paying the cost of holding its own election. Elections for the U.S. Senate are held every six years or to fill a vacancy.
- The cost of an election for a U.S. House seat is estimated to range from \$450,000 to \$700,000 per district, depending on which district is affected and the size of the district. Each county would be responsible for paying its own election cost. Elections for the U.S. House are held every two years or to fill a vacancy.
- The costs for these elections are based on the cost of the 2008 Presidential Preference Primary.
- Since elections for U.S. House seats occur more frequently, the fiscal impact is based on the election cost for these seats.
- It is estimated that there could be one runoff election every two years; the cost of a runoff election could exceed \$450,000 every two years.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "White" clearly legible, and "W." in the middle.

James W. White, Executive Director

/rct